

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 are being amended in this paper. Claims 2-4, 13, 21-33, 35-39 and 41-45 remain in this application as originally filed. Claims 6-12, 14-20, 34 and 40 are in a form as previously presented. No new claim is added. No claim is canceled.

Claim 5 is amended to incorporate all the limitations of its base claims and any intervening claims as previously presented, as suggested by the Examiner in Item 9 of the Detailed Action in order to make it allowable.

Claim 1 is amended such that the difunctional monomer (2) is further limited to formula (III) monomers and formulae (II)/(III) monomer mixtures.

It is believed that such amendments above do not introduce new matter into the application.

The above amendments are made after a final Office action. Entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the amendments do not require further search or present new issues. The amendments to claims 1 and 5 do not increase the number of claims in the above-identified application. Amendment to claim 5 is made to incorporate changes suggested by the Examiner in the final Office action. Again, for the reasons listed above, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that, in Item 10 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 40-45 as previous presented or originally filed.

Applicants also note with appreciation that, in Item 9 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5-26, 30-33 and 37-39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Double Patenting Rejection

Applicants note with appreciation that, in Item 2 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has withdrawn his provisional double-patenting rejection set forth in the previous Office action dated October 1, 2003.

III. Claim objections

Applicants note with appreciate that in Item 3 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has withdrawn his claim objections set forth in the previous Office action dated October 1, 2003.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Applicants note with appreciation that, in Item 4 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has withdrawn his rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 set forth in the previous Office action dated October 1, 2003.

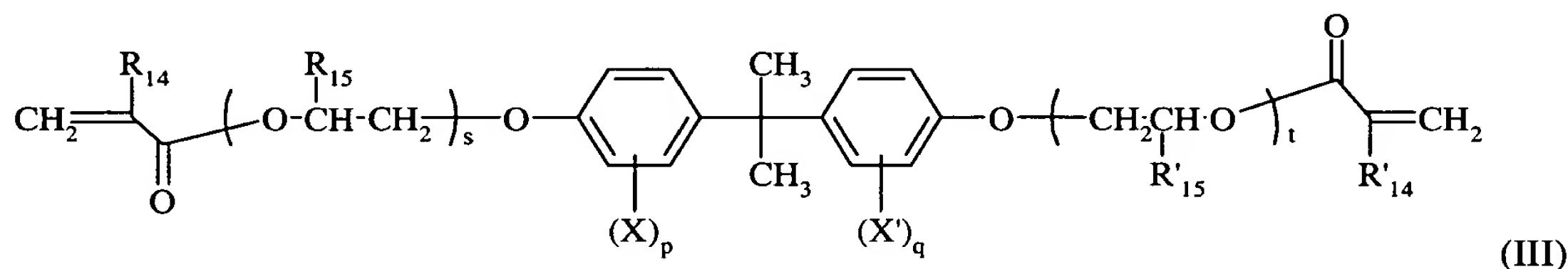
V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner, in Item 5 of the Detailed Action, has withdrawn his rejections of claims 40-44 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) set forth in paragraphs 7-16 of the previous Office action (Paper No. 0903).

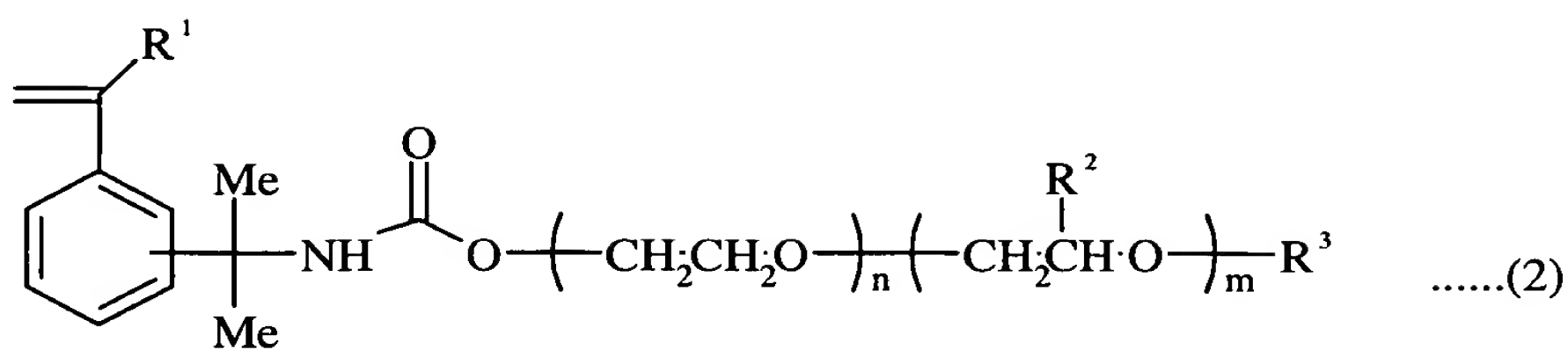
In Item 7 of the detailed action, the Examiner maintained his rejections of claims 1-4, 27-29 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujikake (JP 09-143210).

Applicants have amended claim 1 herein by changing the limitation as to the difunctional monomer (2) from "at least one difunctional monomer selected from those of formula (II) and formula (III)" to --at least one difunctional monomer having the following formula (III), or a mixture of at least one difunctional monomer having formula (II) and at least one difunctional monomer having formula (III)--.

By virtue of this amendment, the difunctional monomer (2) must contain at least one monomer having formula (III) below:



Formula (2) of Fujikake is reproduced as follows:



The polymer of monomer having formula (2) with polyethylene glycol as disclosed in paragraphs [0030] and [0021] of Fujikake is different from the polymer of claim 1 of the present application, as amended. Though Fujikake discloses as an optional crosslinking agent polyglycol di(meth)acrylate, which falls within formula (II), Fujikake does not disclose a difunctional monomer having formula (III), much less a (II)/(III) combination.

Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Fujikake. For the same reason, claims 2-4, 27-29 and 34-36 are not anticipated by Fujikake.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his above rejection of claims 1-4, 27-29 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

VI. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner did not enter into a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in the outstanding Office action. The Examiner did not enter into such a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in the previous Office action dated October 1, 2003, either.

VII. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Amendment timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Amendment timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

The undersigned attorney has been granted limited recognition by the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the USPTO to practice before the USPTO in capacity of an employee of Corning

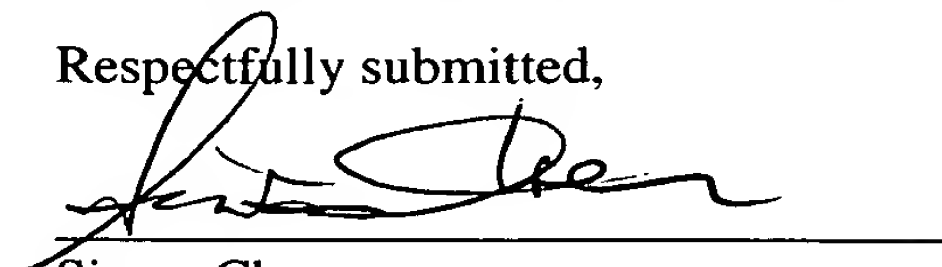
Application Serial No:
09/871,030

Attorney Docket No.:
SP00-189

Incorporated. A copy of the document granting such limited recognition is either attached herewith or has been previously submitted for the record.

Please direct any questions or comments to Siwen Chen at 607-248-1253.

Respectfully submitted,

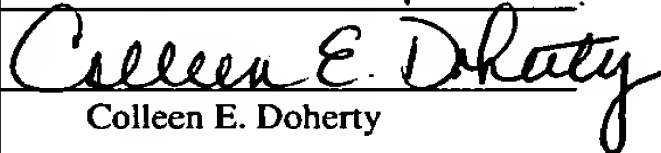

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DATE: March 15, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

3-16-04


Colleen E. Doherty